

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **CANCEL** claims 4, 10, and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16 as shown below.

The following is a complete list of all claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with impaired surfactant production, the method comprising administering a leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment of leptin to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the individual is a mammal.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the individual is an infant with an in utero development of less than nine months.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is a recombinant protein comprising at least a biologically active fragment of leptin.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is administered in a dosage from about 10 ng/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with respiratory distress syndrome, the method comprising administering leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is administered in a dosage from about 10 ng/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia, the method comprising administering a leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.